



Crisis Intercept Mapping Workshops for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

Enhancing suicide prevention, crisis care, and postvention services for service members, Veterans, and their families

What's at Stake

Veterans die of suicide at a disproportionate rate. In 2022, there were 6,407 suicides among Veterans, accounting for approximately 13.4% of all U.S. adult suicides, despite Veterans comprising about 7.5% of the adult population. While this reflects a slight decrease from previous years, suicide remains a critical public health concern.

Among Veterans who died by suicide in 2022, approximately 40.1% had received Veterans Health Administration (VHA) care within the past 2 years, meaning nearly 60% had no recent contact with the VHA. These data highlight the importance of expanding community-based interventions, as many Veterans at risk of suicide do not engage with VHA services before their death.



Our Solution

Crisis Intercept Mapping Workshops for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) is a targeted mapping service. Through this mapping, attendees explore how to enhance suicide prevention, crisis care, and postvention services for SMVF. The Crisis Intercept Mapping Workshop focuses on the following:

- Strengthening community-based behavioral health systems
- Breaking down siloes between agencies
- Increasing access to culturally responsive, comprehensive, and continuous care



Our Model

The Crisis Intercept Map helps communities support SMVF who experience thoughts of suicide. The Crisis Intercept Map prioritizes the following goals for SMVF in mental health crisis: (1) meeting SMVF where they are in the community, (2) delivering acute care, and (3) offering follow-up assistance when an individual is still at high risk.

The Crisis Intercept Map outlines the flow of SMVF experiencing thoughts of suicide through behavioral health services. The mapping focuses on four specific intercepts or moments when help could be provided.



Participants

The participants involved in this systems mapping are the following:

- Medical centers
- Veterans service organizations and trauma recovery programs
- Local mental health and substance use treatment services
- Local law enforcement agencies
- Crisis hotlines, local hospitals, and emergency departments
- Local, state, and federal departments of Veterans affairs



Get Started With the SMTc

The Systems Mapping and Training Center, operated by [Policy Research Associates](#), uses a public health model to create data-driven systems change. The Systems Mapping and Training Center provides cross-systems mapping and training services on different topics related to behavioral health, the criminal legal systems, Veterans, homelessness, and more.

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